

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

4/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

January 21, 1983

To: All County Welfare Directors

Letter No. 83-8

TEMPORARY CARD ISSUANCE TO RESTRICTED BENEFICIARIES

Recently, a number of Medi-Cal beneficiaries on the restricted card program have received temporary Medi-Cal cards that do not reflect their restricted status. As a measure to ensure that the restrictions are appropriately reflected on temporary cards, Division 3, Chapter 2, Article 14-A of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual currently requires counties to check the Limited Services Status Register (LSSR) prior to issuing temporary Medi-Cal cards to determine whether or not a beneficiary is enrolled in a PHP or on restricted status. As a further measure of assurance and for the benefit of the counties, the Department sends copies of the restricted Notices of Action to county welfare departments (CWDs) to be placed in the beneficiary's case file.

Unfortunately, in many counties these procedures are not being followed. The Department has noted excessive payments for drug prescriptions and office visits that would have been avoided if the LSSR or the case file had been checked prior to issuing nonrestricted temporary Medi-Cal cards. When the LSSR is not used and a nonrestricted card is issued in error, the unnecessary cost to the program is an average of \$160/month for every beneficiary who should be on "drug restriction" (Code R5), \$250/month for every beneficiary who should be on "office visit restriction" (Code 11) and \$350/month for every beneficiary who should be on combined "office visit/drug restriction" (Code 12). Therefore, this is to reiterate that it is incumbent upon CWDs to ensure the issuance of restricted temporary cards when appropriate.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Juarez at (916) 445-1912.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Madalyn M. Martinez, Chief
Eligibility Branchcc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants